Author's response to reviews

Title: B. anthracis Associated Cardiovascular Dysfunction and Shock: The Potential Contribution of Both Non-toxin and Toxin Components

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Dr. D’Souza:

Please find attached a manuscript entitled “B. anthracis Associated Cardiovascular Dysfunction and Shock: The Potential Contribution of Non-toxin and Toxin Components” we submit as an invited mini-review to BMC Medicine. This version has been further revised from the one submitted July 11, 2013. In addition to the unmarked version, we include a marked version as well as a set of responses to the editor and to the two reviewers.

We would like to point out that Reviewer 1 did not seem to recognize that the major review we submitted to BMC presented the pathogenesis of shock and cardiovascular dysfunction with anthrax from a very different perspective than other reviews we have done, including the recent one by Hicks. Possibly we didn’t emphasize this perspective sufficiently. However, we specifically tried to avoid the dogma that shock with anthrax is primarily a toxin based phenomena. Much more likely, as with more common types of bacteria, the B. anthracis cell wall and its constituents make a very important contribution to the bacteria’s pathogenesis. How these different non-toxin and toxin components interact is going to become a central area in this field of research. The figure we provided and our presentation of the literature, some of which was pre-2011, was designed to emphasize the importance of non-toxin components. This concept is an emerging one in the field, and it was very appropriate to present it in a major review. However, we appreciate the opportunity to submit this mini-review, which continues to address the concept.

Regards,

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